



**MINUTES FOR BOARD APPROVAL  
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2007 - 6:30 P.M.  
Fort Lauderdale City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Eighth Floor Cafeteria

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
1. Michael Bacigalupi	P	2	0
2. Aaron Bass, Co-Chair	P	2	0
3. Jacquelyn Bradley	A	0	2
4. Pam Brown, Co-Chair	P	2	0
5. Brian Dassler	A	0	2
6. Jacquie Gross	P	1	1
7. Paula Haliczzer	P	2	0
8. Elizabeth Hays	P	2	0
9. Pearl Maloney	P	2	0
10. Leola McCoy	P	1	1
11. Janice Olson	P	1	1
12. Elaine Schulze	P	2	0
13. Niara Sudarkasa	P	1	1
Total Members Present	11		
<i>Current Membership: 13 Quorum: 7</i>			
Lu Deaner, Chair Emeritus	P		
Leslie G. Carhart, Staff Liaison	P		
Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison	P		
Betty Shelly, CFLCA Liaison	A		

**EAB February 2007 Agenda**

**Special Notice:**

Work groups and subcommittees of the EAB membership often meet at 5:30 pm in advance of the regular Board meeting.

**A. Opening - P. Brown and A. Bass**

- Attendance and Sign-in
- Approve Minutes (Oct, Nov & Jan) & Agenda (Feb)
- Announcements

**B. New Business**

**1. Policy/Practice – Members at Community Meetings**

- a. City Policy – P. Brown
- b. Draft Discussion Points – B. Dassler

**C. Old/Ongoing Business**

**1. EAB Goals and Objectives** (Deferred from last meeting)

- a. 2007 EAB Goals – Discussion/Revision – J. Olson
- b. Update/Status on Proposed “Forum” – (Dinnen/Williams) – P. Brown

**2. Best Practices Summit Report –**

**3. Truancy Data** (Arthur Ashe) – E. Schulze

**4. Parental Involvement Discussions/Fort Lauderdale Parent Association Initiative**

(Continued from previous meetings)

- a. Letters and Survey Drafts
- b. Input/Invitations: South Central Area VP and South Central Advisory Chair
- c. Input/Invitations: Sunland, Ashe, Lauderdale Manors Principals
- d. Invitation to Early Childhood Coalition ref. Parental Involvement
- e. Contact Info/Outreach to Fort Lauderdale Schools

**5. Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**

- a. EAB Members Self Assessment
- b. “Good to Great” discussion

**6. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion -**

- a. City Commission/Manager Follow-up: None
- b. Liaison Reports & Updates:
  - 1) Staff Liaison Report –Carhart
  - 2) Broward County Schools District Reports – C. Webster
  - 3) Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

**D. Other Matters - For the Good of the Board - TBD**

**E. Next Meeting and Closing**

- Agenda Items: TBD
- Location and Date: City Hall, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Opening – Co-chairs Pam Brown & Aaron Bass** - Attendance and Sign-in

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Brown at 6:35. The attendance sign-in sheet was passed around.

**Approve Minutes of October 2006, November 2006 and January 2007 Meetings**

Dr. Hays and Ms. Deaner noted corrections for the November minutes and Dr. Hays noted a correction for the January minutes.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the minutes of the October 2006, November 2006 and January 2007 meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Agenda of February 2007**

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Ms. Schulze, to approve the February 2007 agenda. Board unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

Co-Chair Brown announced that Mr. Dassler could not be present this evening.

**New Business**

**Policy/Practice – Member Participation/Representing Board at Community Meeting**

[This item was tabled until Mr. Dassler could be present]

City Policy

Draft Discussion Points

**Old/Ongoing Business**

**EAB Goals and Objectives**

2007 EAB Goals – Discussion/Revision – J. Olson

Ms. Olson explained that she had created the outline so the EAB could define their goals to direct their actions. Ms. Olson invited Board members' input.

Ms. McCoy felt they must begin mentoring families and children directly. She noted that kids brought their negative home life to school with them. Ms. McCoy suggested mentoring two troubled families. She stated, "This Commission needs to understand that these very children in their City will eventually become their work force..."

The Board agreed that mentoring, specifically at Lauderdale Manors, had been included on an earlier version of the outline, and agreed it should be added to the current version.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Dr. Bacigalupi, to approve the EAB Goals outline. Board unanimously approved.

Update/Status on Proposed “Forum” – (Dinnen) – P. Brown & B. Dassler

**Best Practices Summit Report**

Dr. Hays reported that Ms. Carhart’s display was remarkable and Ms. Brown’s presentation was very good. Dr. Hays felt there were good ideas presented by many of the participants. Ms. Deaner particularly liked the idea of appointing a student to the EAB; of the EAB awarding scholarships; of participating in mentoring programs; of sponsoring art in public places. Ms. Deaner also liked the “civics training” where students would follow the Mayor and/or Commissioner for a day, followed by role-playing and debates.

Co-Chair Brown remarked on how heartwarming it was to see the large number of volunteers who participated because they cared about the kids in their cities. Co-Chair Brown felt the role of the education advisory boards was to place focus on education, and just having the boards was an important part of communities’ involvement in education. She felt it was an indication of a City Commission’s concern about education in their City.

Mr. Webster complimented Ms. Carhart on the display she had created, and Co-Chair Brown on her presentation. He said they hoped this would become an annual event that would grow and improve.

Ms. Carhart noted that the event had been about what the boards were currently doing, not necessarily their best practices. She felt it might be useful to retrace the history of the EAB to pinpoint the time they had made the biggest impact, and determine how they had done it.

Dr. Hays reminded everyone that Julie Richards was the education “go-to” person in the City Manager’s office.

**Truancy Data** (Arthur Ashe)

Ms. Schulze said she had talked to some of the kids to get their ideas. They had suggested an attendance incentive each month, such as a dance or party. After more discussion with the kids, Ms. Schulze said she would present the ideas to the principal. She had considered having a Dolphin player attend the dance and distribute team merchandise.

Ms. Deaner objected to having to use these types of incentives to encourage attendance.

Dr. Hays said she would see if she could arrange an appearance by one of the Dolphin players.

Ms. McCoy felt an incentive must be academically sound. She remarked on the negative spiral of poor academic performance and poor attendance.

Ms. Carhart discussed a community-wide event that would be limited to kids who had achieved a three or better on the FCAT.

Dr. Sudarkasa wondered if they could call in parents of truant kids from Arthur Ashe to meet with EAB members to discuss some possible solutions.

Ms. McCoy felt they must deal with the parents one-on-one and motivate them to become part of this initiative. She noted that the problem kids and their parents did not attend the usual school involvement meetings.

Co-Chair Bass wanted to concentrate on action items. He suggested a committee meet to create some ideas for actions to take in this direction.

Dr. Sudarkasa recommended they form a committee to work on the Arthur Ashe initiative to visit the school and discuss the best ways to get parents involved. Ms. Schulze felt they could work with the PTA at Arthur Ashe.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Ms. Maloney, to create the Arthur Ashe Support Group. Board unanimously approved.

### **Parental Involvement Discussions/Fort Lauderdale Parent Association Initiative**

#### Letters and Survey Drafts

Input/Invitations: South Central Area VP and South Central Advisory Chair

Input/Invitations: Sunland, Ashe, Lauderdale Manors Principals

Invitation to Early Childhood Coalition ref. Parental Involvement

Contact Info/Outreach to Fort Lauderdale Schools

Co-Chair Bass distributed copies of the letters he had distributed in January. He asked the Board to authorize sending letters to the Commissioners and Mayor to make them aware that the EAB intended to send these letters. After receiving Commission approval, they would send the letters to school board members, South Central Area VP and South Central Advisory Chair, school principals and the PTA presidents.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Ms. Olson, to approve of the letters in concept, and to forward this proposal to the City Commission. Board unanimously approved.

The Board agreed some minor changes should be made to the letters. Ms. Olson suggested Board members provide feedback via email, and Ms. Carhart offered to edit the letters. Co-Chair Brown felt that rather than submit this for the Commission's consent agenda, they should send individual letters to commissioners. She agreed to follow up after they were sent.

Ms. McCoy wanted the letters to state that the EAB's concern about the schools' performance and lack of parental involvement.

The Board agreed that once the Commission approved the idea, they would send the letters immediately. Co-Chair Brown invited Board members to contact their appointing commissioners regarding this.

The Board discussed creating the city-wide PTA, and agreed that the letter should stress the Board's desire to establish Fort Lauderdale as a City that encouraged parental involvement in its schools. The letter should also explain the Board's concerns about the apparent disconnect between the school community and the community at large. Ms. Carhart stated that the parents who were not involved now might never become involved, and then the issue would become how other volunteers could fill that role.

#### **Chair Reports/Discussion Items – Brown/Bass**

Co-Chair Brown said she had met with Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair of the SAC Committee at Sunland Park. Mr. Hamilton said the school board thought that replacing the principal and many teachers would "fix" the problems at Sunland. Co-Chair Brown noted that Sunland had "every social and economic issue that we can find in the City...the answer cannot be a principal and new teachers."

Mr. Hamilton had explained to Co-Chair Brown that one year ago, he had brought a list of 12 things the SAC Committee had suggested for Sunland to Mr. Williams, Dr. Farrow and others. At that meeting, Dr. Farrow had agreed that all of those things would happen, but now the school district had backtracked on all of them. Co-Chair Brown said she had been waiting for those initiatives to occur before contacting the principal on behalf of the EAB.

The Board discussed ways to get other groups involved to help Sunland Park. Co-Chair Brown suggested that Board members Sunland Park to witness the disgusting conditions caused by the dry cleaner and car shop. Ms. Schulze suggested they contact the local homeowners association. Ms. Maloney agreed to contact Jasmine Shirley and get their sororities to work together. Co-Chair Brown said she and Co-Chair Bass would meet with the principal again and contact the SAC Committee.

Regarding Co-Chair Brown's efforts to initiate a City employee mentoring program at Lauderdale Manors, Co-Chair Brown reported that Julie Richards had informed her that this was now "on hold." Dr. Hays remembered that Governor Bush had appointed Mayor Naugle personally to address issues at Lauderdale Manors. Co-Chair Brown felt the Mayor had initiated action on the mentoring program, but the City had never followed through. Co-Chair Bass said he would get in touch with Deidre Hicks for a status report on Lauderdale Manors and report back to the Board. Co-Chair Brown agreed to meet with City Manager Gretsas to determine the status of the mentoring program.

#### EAB Members' Self-Assessment

Co-Chair Bass asked Board members to complete the self-assessments and email them back to him.

“Good to Great” discussion

**Other Reports/Updates/Discussion**

City Commission/Manager Follow-up

Liaison Reports & Updates:

Staff Liaison Report –Carhart

Broward County School District Reports – C. Webster

Mr. Webster reminded everyone that the legislative session began on March 7 and he wanted the Board to be mindful that any property tax reform would probably affect the schools.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Report – Shelly

Ms. Shelly was not present.

**Other Matters/For the Good of the Board**

Ms. Deaner announced that on April 21, Frances Payne was being honored for 38 years of service. She agreed to provide additional information to the Board.

Ms. Deaner wondered if the EAB should make recommendations regarding the FCAT, which was being evaluated. Co-Chair Brown suggested this be put on the Board’s agenda.

Dr. Hays wanted to know what happened to the proclamation for a Sunland employee that the Board had approved. Co-Chair Brown and Ms. Carhart agreed to research this.

De. Hays suggested the EAB send Ms. Dassler a condolence card.

Dr. Hays informed everyone that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board had seen a presentation on North Fork Elementary School’s after school academic/fitness program and wanted the EAB to see this presentation.

Dr. Bacigalupi stated that the current issue of Go Riverwalk Magazine contained an article called “What Fort Lauderdale Needs” in which Dr. Bacigalupi had bragged about a few Fort Lauderdale schools.

**Next Meeting and Closing**

- **Location:** City Hall 8<sup>th</sup> Floor cafeteria
- **Date:** March 15, 2007

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.